strongthen the Public Distribution System (PDS) in areas covered by Integrated Tribal Development Projects (ITDP), Desert Development Programme (DDP), Draught Prone Area Programme (DPAP) and certain Designated Hill Areas (DHA). Representatives of all States and almost all U.T.s were present at the meeting.

Ministers from many States demanded higher allocations of PDS commodities. They also demanded resumption of supplies of imported edible oils under the PDS. Allocation of PDS commodities to various States are made considering factors like demand from States, availability in the Central Pool, etc. and imports of edible oil made. Government has since decided to import about 1,50,000 tonnes of Palmolein for distribution under PDS. Ministers of some States demanded improvement in timely availability of stocks from Food Corporation of India depots. There was also a demand for increased assistance from the Central Government for various measures to improve the PDS. The Central Government already incurs a huge expenditure in procuring, storing, transporting and delivering the PDS commodities to the State Governments/ U.T. Administrations. Central Government also has ongoing schemes to assist State Governments/U.T. Administrations for purchase of mobile vans, and for setting up of godowns in certain States.

Proposals by Indian Rare Earths Limited

638. SHRI S. MADHAVAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian Rare Earths Limited has submitted proposals to open up new minerals sand deposits in Tamil Nadu for making value added products; if so, the details thereof; and

(b) what decision Government have taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) No, Sir. Preliminarf studies are under waf to exploit the mineral deposits occuring at Kudiraimozhi, V. O. Chidambaranar District, Tamil Nadu.

(b) Does not arise.

Nuclear Power Station in Andhra Pradesh

639. SHRI T. CHANDRASEKHAR REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Andhra Pradesh has requested the Central Government to set up some nuclear power stations in the State to augment its power resources;

(b) if so, whether any decision has been taken in this regard and any site selected for the purpose in the State; and

(c) if so, the details of the sites selected and plans, if any, drawn up for the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) No decision has so far been taken by Government of India on locating a nuclear power plant in Andhra Pradesh. However, preliminary/ exploratory investigations of sites in Andhra Pradesh have been carried out. The selection of sites for nuclear power plants will have to undergo various stages of review and appraisal. This process is under way at present.

Early Clearance to Kaiga Nuclear Power Plant

640. SHRI J. P. JAVALI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the III and IV units of Kaiga Nuclear Power Plant, are yet to receive environmental clearance; and

(b) if so, what action has been taken for early clearance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Application for environmental clearance submitted by Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited to Union Ministry of Environment and Forests in September 1989 has been evaluated by an Environmental Appraisal Committee (EAC) constituted by the Ministry. All clarifications, as also additional particulars have been furnished and specific presentations have been made to the EAC.

Location of Nuclear Power Plant in Kerala

641. SHRI M. A. BABY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any decision has been taken regarding the location of the proposed nuclear power plant in the State of Kerala; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA) (a) No, Sir. Not yet.

(b) A Selection Committee appointed for this purpose has recommended a site at Peringome on the suggestion of the State Electricity Board. This site is being investigated at present for its suitability.

Radiation from Rajasthan Atomic Power Station

642. SHRI A. G. KULKARNI:
DR. BAPU KALDATE:
SHRI VISHWASRAO RAMARAO PATIL:
SHRI SURESH PACHOURI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a report of HTV Eye Witness has confirmed the rising number of deformities among villagers near Rajasthan Atomic Power station due to radiation;

(b) if so, whether Government have constituted or propose to constitute any independent medico-scientific body to inquire into this aspect covering all the nearby residential areas of various atomic power stations in the country; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take to rehabilitate the victims of the reported atomic radiation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) There have been reports in the media including HTV Eye witness about certain health problems in some villages near Rajasthan Atomic Power Station (RAPS). There is no scientific evidence to confirm any linkage of these problems to RAPS.

(b) Surveys conducted by expert team of medical officers of Rajasthan Government have revealed that the health deficiencies observed were not attributable to radiation induced diseases. The contributing factors to the health problems are observed to be malnutrition and lack of potable water supply and health care facilities. Details on low level radioactivity releases and records of the Environmental Survey Laboratory at RAPS indicate that limits stipulated by the regulatory authorities are being complied with. The health problems reported in the villages have not been evident in either the plant workers or the families living in the nearby township. The operations of RAPS and all the Nuclear Power Stations in the country are reviewed on a continuous basis by an independent regulatory body i.e. Atomic Energy Regulatory Board, with respect to safety of the plant, plant personnel and members of the public.

(c) In view of (b) above, question does not arise.

643. [*Transferred to the 4th December, 1991*]